

MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE HIGHLIGHTS

In 2011, 12,206 marriages took place in Nebraska, which is an increase from the 12,047 marriages that occurred here in 2010. The Nebraska resident marriage rate in 2011 was 6.6 marriages per 1,000 population. Long-term trends show that Nebraska's marriage rate rose sharply during the 1960s, peaking in 1970 at 10.6, and has declined steadily ever since.

Age at marriage continues to increase in Nebraska. In 2011, only 4.9% of all Nebraska marriages involved a teenaged bride or groom; 25 years ago, in 1986, 13.2% of all marriages in Nebraska had at least one teenaged bride or groom. Conversely, just over half (50.1%) of all Nebraska marriages in 2011 involved either a bride or groom who was at least 30 years of age, up from 36.1% in 1986. Over one in 10 (10.4%) Nebraska marriages that took place in 2011 included either a bride or groom who was at least 50 years of age.

There were 6,367 divorces granted in Nebraska in 2011, which is a decrease from the 2010 count of 6,603. The 2011 number translates into a rate of 3.5 divorces per 1,000 population. Nebraska's divorce rate rose dramatically during the 1960s and 1970s, peaking at 4.3 in 1981 (also the state's peak year for the number of divorces granted). Since stabilizing during the 1980s, the divorce rate in Nebraska has been in slow decline since the early 1990s.

More divorces were granted to people in their thirties than in any other decade of life, with 45.5% of Nebraska divorces in 2011 involving at least one person between 30 and 39 years of age. Little has changed in the span of 25 years: among divorces granted in Nebraska in 1986, 48.7% involved at least one person 30 to 39 years of age. Almost one of every four (22.9%) Nebraska divorces in 2011 terminated marriages lasting three years or less, while just over half (51.9%) ended marriages lasting eight years or less. Just over half (52.1%) of the state's 2011 divorces involved couples with children, and 6,069 children were affected by these divorces. Close to half (48.8%) of the state's 2011 divorces involved at least one type of settlement: child support was the most frequent type of settlement and was awarded in 2,484 divorces, followed by alimony (awarded in 681 divorces), property (awarded in 643 divorces), and medical reimbursement (awarded in 150 divorces).